

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 041725Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6570

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJECT: RICE TRADE TAKE-OVER BY GOI DELAYED

ON SEPTEMBER 3, BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT DEBATED GOI TAKE-OVER OF WHOLESALE TRADE IN RICE. GOI SPOKESMEN REFUSED TO CONFIRM THAT RICE TRADE WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FORTHCOMING HARVEST. IN FACT, ALL OF THEIR COMMENTS STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT SUCH ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME. FOLLOWING THE DEBATES ON THIS SUBJECT, COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS WALKED OUT OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, MEMBERS OF THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM (SIGNED BY 102 CONGRESS PARTY MEMBERS) TO THE PRIME MINISTER STRONGLY URGING THE GOI TO IMPLEMENT ITS ORIGINAL DECISION TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLESALE RICE TRADE THIS FALL. THE PRIME MINISTER REFUSED TO AGREE TO THIS PROPOSAL AND INDICATED THE QUESTION WAS STILL UNDER REVIEW.

COMMENTS: IN DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF RICE TRADE TAKEOVER BY THE GOI, EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE THAT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE

NOT TO TAKE OVER THE RICE TRADE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FALL
HARVEST. THIS DECISION RESULTS FROM THE FAILURE OF THE WHEAT
TRADE TAKE-OVER PROGRAM AND THE PRECARIOUS SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS
NOW AVAILABLE TO THE GOI FOR DISSEMINATION THROUGH GOVERNMENT
CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS. VIRTUALLY ALL STATE CHIEF
MINISTERS HAVE ADVISED MRS. GANDHI AGAINST TAKE OVER AT THIS TIME.
IT NOW SEEMS EVIDENT THAT THE RICE TRADE TAKE-OVER WILL BE POSTPONED
FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD ALTHOUGH LEFT WING ELEMENTS IN THE
PARLIAMENT WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS QUESTION.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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